

## **CLAIMS**

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**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A mask retaining system, comprising:
  - 2 a mask;
  - 3 a hood configured to cover a head of a user;
  - 4 a mount band integral with said hood configured to couple to said mask,  
and to form a seal between said hood and said mask; and
  - 5 a harness configured to couple to said mask and said mount band,  
configured to hold said mask against the face of a user.
2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising at least one bracket configured to  
couple to said mask and to said mount band.
3. The system of Claim 2, wherein said at least one bracket includes a top bracket.
2. The system of Claim 2, wherein said at least one bracket includes a side  
bracket.
5. The system of Claim 2, wherein said mount band comprises a plurality of  
spaced apart coupling structures configured to couple to said harness and to said at least  
one bracket.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein said hood is configured to receive and to secure  
2 said mount band.
  
7. The system of Claim 5, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like  
2 configuration to receive and secure said mount band, and includes orifices to allow said  
coupling structures of said mount band to pass therethrough.
  
8. The system of Claim 5, wherein said at least one bracket is configured to couple  
2 to said coupling structure of said mount band.
  
9. The system of Claim 8 wherein said at least one bracket comprises a coupling  
2 structure configured to couple to said harness.
  
10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said harness comprises:  
2 a plurality of flanges configured to extend around said hood; and  
a plurality of orifices within each of said plurality of flanges configured  
4 to couple to said coupling structure of said mount band, and said coupling  
structure of said at least one bracket.
  
11. The system of Claim 10, wherein more than one of said plurality of orifices may  
2 couple to each of said coupling structures.

12. A retaining system, comprising:

- 2            a mask;
- a hood configured to cover a head of a user;
- 4            a mount band integral with said hood configured to couple to said mask,  
and to form a seal between said hood and said mask;
- 6            a harness configured to couple to said mask and to said mount band; and  
at least one bracket configured to couple to said mask and to said mount  
8            band.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said mount band comprises at least one

- 2 coupling structure configured to couple to said harness and to said at least one bracket.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said at least one bracket is configured to

- 2 couple to said at least one coupling structure of said mount band.

15. The system of Claim 13, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like

- 2 configuration to receive and secure said mount band, and includes orifices to allow said  
coupling structures of said mount band to pass therethrough.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like

- 2 configuration to receive and secure said mount band.

17. The system of Claim 12, wherein said mount band comprises a plurality of  
2 spaced apart coupling structures configured to couple to said harness and to said at least  
one bracket.

18. The system of Claim 12, wherein said at least one bracket is configured to  
2 couple to said coupling structure of said mount band.

19. The system of Claim 12, wherein said at least one bracket comprises a coupling  
2 structure configured to couple to said harness.

20. The system of Claim 12, wherein said harness comprises:

2 a plurality of flanges configured to extend around said hood; and  
4 a plurality of orifices within each of said plurality of flanges configured  
to couple to said coupling structure of said mount band, and said coupling  
structure of said at least one bracket.

21. A retaining system, comprising:

2 a mask;  
4 a hood configured to cover a head of a user;  
a mount band configured to couple to said mask and said hood, and to  
form a seal between said hood and said mask;  
6 a harness configured to couple to said mask and said mount band; and

at least one bracket configured to couple to said mask and to said mount  
8 bracket.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said hood is configured to receive and to  
2 secure said mount band.

23. The system of Claim 21, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like  
2 configuration to receive and secure said mount band.

24. The system of Claim 21, wherein said mount band comprises a plurality of  
2 spaced apart coupling structures configured to couple to said harness and to said at least  
one bracket.

25. The system of Claim 21, wherein said at least one bracket is configured to  
2 couple to said coupling structure of said mount band.

26. The system of Claim 21 wherein, said at least one bracket comprises a coupling  
2 structure configured to couple to said harness.

27. The system of Claim 21, wherein said harness comprises:  
2 a plurality of flanges configured to extend around said hood; and

4           a plurality of orifices within each of said plurality of flanges configured  
to couple to said coupling structure of said mount band, and said coupling  
structure of said at least one bracket.

28. A mask retaining system, comprising:

2           a mask;  
4           a mount band with a plurality of spaced apart coupling structures,  
configured to couple to said mask;  
6           a hood configured to cover a head of a user, and to receive and secure  
said mount band;  
8           a harness configured with a plurality of flanges and orifices, configured  
to couple to said mask and said mount band; and  
10          at least one bracket configured to couple to said mask and to said mount  
band.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like  
configuration to receive and secure said mount band, and includes orifices to allow said  
coupling structures of said mount band to pass therethrough.

30. The system of Claim 28, wherein said at least one bracket is configured to  
couple to said coupling structure of said mount band.

31. The system of Claim 28 wherein said at least one bracket comprises a coupling  
2 structure configured to couple to said harness.

32. A retaining system, comprising:

2 a mask;  
4 a hood configured to cover a head of a user;  
a mount band integral with said hood, configured to couple to said mask;  
6 a harness with a plurality of flanges and orifices, configured to couple to  
said mount band; and

8 at least one bracket configured to couple to said mask and to said mount  
band,

10 wherein said mount band includes at least one coupling structure,  
configured to couple to said harness and to said at least one bracket.

33. The system of Claim 32, wherein said hood is configured to receive and to  
2 secure said mount band.

34. The system of Claim 32, wherein said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like  
2 configuration to receive and secure said mount band.

35. The system of Claim 28 wherein said at least one bracket comprises a coupling  
2 structure configured to couple to said harness.

36. A method of creating a water-tight and/or an airtight seal between a mask and a  
2 hood, comprising:
- 3                   providing a mask and a bracket;
- 4                   providing a hood with an integral mount band; and
- 5                   coupling said hood to said mask via said bracket and said mount  
6 band.